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A

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A/RES/45/147
21 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 108

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/764)]

45/147. Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking

The General Assembly,

Conscious that the adoption of the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action 1/ at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the question of international co-operation against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, was an important step in the harmonization of the efforts of all to combat this scourge of mankind,

Reaffirming the purpose of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Convinced that an intensification of international co-operation and concerted action among States is the fundamental basis for confronting the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Recognizing that the international fight against illicit trafficking should be pursued in full conformity with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and the principles of international law, particularly respect for

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1/ Resolution S-17/2, annex.

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the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations,

1. Reaffirms that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should continue to be based on strict respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations;

2. Calls upon all States to intensify their actions to promote effective co-operation in the efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, so as to contribute to a climate conducive to achieving this end, and to refrain from using the issue for political purposes;

3. Affirms that the international fight against drug trafficking should not in any way justify violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the right of all peoples freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to give due consideration to principles set out in the present resolution in a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

5. Decides to consider at its forty-sixth session the question of respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, under the item entitled "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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GENERAL

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20 February 1991

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/764)]

45/148. Implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/16 of 1 November 1989 and 44/141 of 15 December 1989, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/84 of 27 July 1990,

Fully aware that the international community is confronted with the dramatic problem of drug abuse and the illicit cultivation, production, demand, processing, distribution and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and that States need to work on the international level as well as individually to deal with this scourge,

Stressing the important role of the United Nations, its relevant bodies and the specialized agencies in the fight against drug abuse at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session on 23 February 1990, 1/

1/ Resolution S-17/2, annex.

Recognizing the continuing importance and validity of the Declaration 2/ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, 3/ as adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, and the Declaration adopted at the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London from 9 to 11 April 1990, 4/

1. Reaffirms the commitment expressed in the Global Programme of Action and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control;

2. Calls upon States to take all possible steps to promote and implement individually and in co-operation with others the mandates and recommendations contained in the Global Programme of Action, with a view to translating the Programme into practical action to the widest possible extent at the national, regional and international levels;

3. Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations drug control programme, 5/ once established, to promote and continuously monitor the progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on all activities relating to the Global Programme of Action, including those of Governments;

5. Calls upon the United Nations and its relevant bodies and specialized agencies, other relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend their co-operation and assistance to States in the promotion and implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990

2/ See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

3/ Ibid., sect. A.

4/ A/45/262, annex.

5/ See resolution 45/179.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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GENERAL

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6 March 1991

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/764)]

45/149. International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned that the illicit demand for, production of and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continue to pose a serious threat to all mankind, to affect adversely the socio-economic and political structures of affected societies and to endanger the stability, national security and sovereignty of States,

Alarmed by the growing connection between drug trafficking and terrorism,

Reaffirming the principle of the shared responsibility of the international community in combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking,

Reaffirming also the importance of international co-operation in the immediate implementation of all mandates and courses of action contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control 1/ and the Global Programme of Action, 2/

1/ See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ See resolution S-17/2, annex.

Taking note with interest of the reports of the Secretary-General, 3/

Welcoming the work of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, convened under General Assembly resolution 44/142 of 15 December 1989, on the impact of the social and economic consequences of drug-money transfers and conversion, which have an adverse effect on national economic systems, 4/

Having in mind that the Intergovernmental Expert Group proposed a framework for a future in-depth study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, 4/ for which reason the issue must be duly followed up,

Keeping in mind that the Secretary-General has taken note of the recommendations addressed to him by the Intergovernmental Expert Group, which will be considered in the context of the proposed programme of drug-control activities for the biennium 1992-1993,

Recognizing that the consideration by the Intergovernmental Expert Group of the financial aspects of its mandate was more extensive than that of the economic and social aspects, and that these latter areas require further and more detailed analysis,

Welcoming the efforts made by those countries which produce narcotic drugs for scientific, medicinal and therapeutic uses to prevent the channelling of such substances to illicit markets and to maintain production at a level consistent with licit demands,

Reiterating that the transit routes used by drug traffickers change constantly and that an ever-growing number of countries in all regions of the world, and even entire regions, are particularly vulnerable to illicit transit traffic on account, inter alia, of their geographical location,

Noting with regret that the work of the secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat is impeded by lack of human and financial resources and affirming that this problem must be given due consideration in the context of the restructuring of the United Nations drug control system,

Reiterating its condemnation of criminal activities that involve children in the use, production and illicit distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and appealing to the competent international agencies and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to assign priority to measures designed to address this problem,

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3/ A/45/535 and A/45/542.

4/ See A/C.3/45/8, annex.

Reaffirming that the Declaration adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 5/ the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, 2/ the Declaration of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, held in London from 9 to 11 April 1990, 6/ and the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action, together with the international drug control treaties, provide a comprehensive framework for international co-operation in drug control,

Noting that in the Global Programme of Action the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control is invited to elaborate for consideration by States a subregional strategy covering all aspects of drug abuse control and concentrating on the most affected areas where the problems are most complex and grave, 7/

Noting with satisfaction that the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East are sources of very useful recommendations for action at the regional level oriented towards solving specific problems of the various regions,

I

International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

1. Strongly condemns the crime of drug trafficking in all its forms and urges continued commitment and effective international action to combat it, in keeping with the principle of shared responsibility and with full respect for national sovereignty and the cultural identity of States;

2. Urges Governments and organizations to adhere to the principles set forth in the Declaration adopted by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, and to implement the recommendations and mandates contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and in the Global Programme of Action;

3. Also urges the immediate implementation of the mandates and recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action, particularly

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5/ See Report of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Vienna, 17-26 June 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.I.18), chap. I, sect. B.

6/ See A/45/262, annex.

7/ See resclution S-17/2, annex, Global Programme of Action, para. 42.

those pertaining to, inter alia, demand reduction, treatment and social rehabilitation of drug addicts, eradication and substitution of illicit crops, integrated rural development, establishment of complementary employment, health, housing and education programmes, expanded opportunities for trade and investment, including international co-operation to facilitate the marketing of substitute crops, elimination of illicit trafficking, interdiction, supervision and control of precursors and essential chemicals, money-laundering and problems of licit producers;

4. Welcomes the establishment under the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of a world-wide network of regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, which, together with the Sub-Commission on Illicit Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, constitute co-operation mechanisms against illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the convening in Moscow from 19 to 23 November 1990 of the First Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, European Region;

5. Emphasizes the connection between the illicit production and supply of, demand for, sale of and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the economic, social and cultural conditions of the countries affected and that solutions to these problems must take into account the differences and diversity of the problem in each country;

6. Calls upon the international community to provide increased international economic and technical co-operation to Governments, at their request, in support of programmes for the substitution of illicit crops by means of integrated rural development programmes, respecting fully the jurisdiction and sovereignty of countries and the cultural traditions of peoples;

7. Considers that a system should be established to identify the methods and routes used for transit traffic of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, in order to enhance the interdiction capability of States along such routes;

8. Encourages all countries to take action to prevent the illicit arms trade by which weapons are provided to drug traffickers;

9. Takes note of the recommendations and conclusions of the World Ministerial Summit to Reduce the Demand for Drugs and to Combat the Cocaine Threat, 6/ notes all efforts designed to reduce and prevent the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and calls upon the United Nations and other relevant international organizations to devote greater attention to this aspect of the drug problem;

10. Urges Member States to increase substantially their voluntary contributions to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to enable it to expand further its programmes;

11. Welcomes the initiatives of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control aimed at promoting and supporting subregional programmes as envisaged by the Global Programme of Action and urges the Governments concerned to increase their co-operation in support of such subregional strategies;

12. Strongly recommends that the necessary resources from within the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources be made available for the implementation of the various activities for drug abuse control, and particularly for the implementation of the mandates and courses of action contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action;

13. Requests the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study the mandates and recommendations contained in the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Global Programme of Action and other relevant documents, with a view to establishing a timetable for their implementation in the first five years of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse 1991-2000. 2/

II

Economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs and psychotropic substances

1. Requests the Secretary-General to issue the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs as a document of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly 4/ and to submit it to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for consideration at its thirty-fifth session;

2. Invites the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to study the various recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Intergovernmental Expert Group, in particular those relative to the proposed framework for a future in-depth study on the economic and social consequences of illicit traffic in drugs, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session through the Economic and Social Council;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of the provisional and preliminary nature of the study carried out by the Intergovernmental Expert Group to consider the possibility of convening a meeting of an expert group to conclude the analysis commenced pursuant to paragraph 9 (a) of resolution 44/142, and to give due consideration to any recommendations made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

4. Notes with interest the observation made by the Intergovernmental Expert Group that it is important for the United Nations to develop an integrated and unified information system to provide reliable data and information on the illicit drug trafficking chain, especially illicit production, manufacture, processing and consumption; 8/

8/ See A/C.3/45/8, annex, para. 24.

5. Invites the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the measures to be adopted in implementation, in a timely manner, of the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Expert Group, as well as the relevant recommendations made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking".

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NATIONS

A

General Assembly

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/766)]

45/150. Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Aware of its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ which provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, that everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his or her country, that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Noting that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 2/ provides that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country,

Condemning the system of apartheid and any other denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Considering that the tricameral parliament established under the system of apartheid is a gross violation of the principle of universal and equal suffrage and has been overwhelmingly rejected by the international community,

Recalling that all States enjoy sovereign equality and that each State has the right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems,

Recognizing that there is no single political system or electoral method that is equally suited to all nations and their people,

Taking note of the Secretary-General's observations concerning United Nations support for elections in Member States, as presented in his report on the work of the Organization, 3/

Recalling its resolutions 43/157 of 8 December 1988 and 44/146 of 15 December 1989, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989, 4/

1. Underscores the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establish that the authority to govern shall be based on the will of the people, as expressed in periodic and genuine elections;

2. Stresses, its conviction that periodic and genuine elections are a necessary and indispensable element of sustained efforts to protect the rights and interests of the governed and that, as a matter of practical experience, the right of everyone to take part in the government of his or her country is a crucial factor in the effective enjoyment by all of a wide range of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, embracing political, economic, social and cultural rights;

3. Declares that determining the will of the people requires an electoral process that provides an equal opportunity for all citizens to become candidates and put forward their political views, individually and in co-operation with others, as provided in national constitutions and laws;

3/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/45/1), sect. II.

4/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 2 (E/1989/20), chap. II, sect. A.

4. Recognizes that the efforts of the international community to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections should not call into question each State's sovereign right freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems, whether or not they conform to the preferences of other States;

5. Underscores the duty of each member of the international community to respect the decisions taken by other States in freely choosing and developing their electoral institutions;

6. Reaffirms that apartheid must be abolished, that the systematic denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the grounds of race or colour is a gross violation of human rights and an affront to the conscience and dignity of mankind, and that the right to participate in a political system based on common and equal citizenship and universal franchise is essential for the exercise of the principle of periodic and genuine elections;

7. Rejects the tricameral parliament established under the system of apartheid as an abhorrent expression of a fundamentally oppressive and flagrantly inhuman political system;

8. Affirms the value of the electoral assistance that the United Nations has provided at the request of Member States, in the context of full respect for their sovereignty;

9. Believes that the international community should continue to give serious consideration to ways in which the United Nations can respond to the requests of Member States as they seek to promote and strengthen their electoral institutions and procedures;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, specialized agencies, other competent bodies of the United Nations system and those with specific expertise in this area concerning suitable approaches that will permit the Organization to respond to the requests of Member States for electoral assistance;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to report his findings to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, together with an account of United Nations experience in election monitoring, within existing resources;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

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NATIONS

A

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/766)]

45/151. Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Also recalling its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, by which it approved the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Further recalling the principle enshrined in Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations, which establishes that nothing contained in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the Charter,

Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa for the elimination of apartheid and for the establishment of a society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irrespective of race, colour or creed, will enjoy equal and full political and other rights and participate freely in the determination of their destiny,

Also reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle of all peoples under colonial and foreign domination, particularly the Palestinian people, for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, which will enable them to decide freely on their own future,

Recognizing that the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State should be respected in the holding of elections,

Also recognizing that there is no single political system or single model for electoral processes equally suited to all nations and their peoples, and that political systems and electoral processes are subject to historical, political, cultural and religious factors,

Recalling its resolution 44/147 of 15 December 1989,

1. Reiterates that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right, freely and without external interference, to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

2. Affirms that it is the concern solely of peoples to determine methods and to establish institutions regarding the electoral process, as well as to determine the ways for its implementation according to their constitutional and national legislation;

3. Also affirms that any extraneous activities that attempt, directly or indirectly, to interfere in the free development of national electoral processes, in particular in the developing countries, or that intend to sway the results of such processes, violate the spirit and letter of the principles established in the Charter and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Urges all States to respect the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the sovereign right of peoples to determine their political, economic and social system;

5. Strongly appeals to all States to abstain from financing or providing, directly or indirectly, any other form of overt or covert support for political parties or groups and from taking actions to undermine the electoral processes in any country;

6. Condemns any act of armed aggression or threat or use of force against peoples, their elected Governments or their legitimate leaders;

7. Solemnly declares that only the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic society based on majority rule, through the full and free exercise of adult suffrage by all the people in a united and non-fragmented South Africa, can lead to a just and lasting solution to the explosive situation in South Africa;

8. Reaffirms the legitimacy of the struggle of all peoples under colonial and foreign domination, particularly the Palestinian people, for the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence, which will enable them to determine their political, economic and social system, without external interference;

9. Calls upon the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, to give priority to the review of the fundamental factors that negatively affect the observance of the principle of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 1990